
Appendix D. Data Quality

The household relationships topical module is administered once per SIPP panel, during the second 4-month cycle of interviews. The time period covered in this report is June through September, 1991. Respondents (usually the householder or the householder's spouse) are asked to describe the relationships among all members of the household as of the interview date. Information is collected for a maximum of 14 persons, regardless of the total size of the household. Since none of the children in the 1991 file lived in a household that large, no information was lost because of this restriction.

Please refer to appendix E for facsimiles of the questionnaire and the flash card. Interviewers were instructed to ask respondents to select the category that most appropriately described the relationship of one person to another. Valid responses include general categories such as "Other mother" or "Other child," and "Don't know." To provide researchers with maximum opportunity to analyze data as they deem appropriate, responses of "Other" and "Don't know" have not been imputed except, in general, for consistency

with data on sex. It should also be noted that the responses reflect how the respondent characterized the relationship. For example, "father" might in some cases refer to a man who assumed a parental role, though lacked biological or legal ties to the child.

Information is missing for a sizeable proportion of children in the 1991 file: 8 percent of all children lived with at least one person whose relationship to the child was completely unknown (table D-1). Slightly higher proportions of Black (10 percent) and Hispanic (13 percent) children had incomplete records, compared with Whites (8 percent). Children who lived with neither parent nor a grandparent most frequently had data missing (19 percent). A fairly high percentage of children living with single fathers also had incomplete records (13 percent), compared with those in two-parent or single-mother families (8 percent).

In this report, children for whom information was lacking on all relationships were placed in the "Unknown" category in table 1, and were excluded from subsequent tables. Those with partially complete files were analyzed on the basis of the information available.

Table D-1. Children With Incomplete Household Records, by Race and Hispanic Origin

[Number in thousands]

Living arrangements	Total children	Incomplete data	
		Number	Percent
All children under 18 years.....	65,727	5,544	8.4
Living with—			
Two parents.....	47,826	3,609	7.5
One parent.....	15,748	1,393	8.8
Mother only.....	13,955	1,164	8.3
Father only.....	1,793	229	12.8
Grandparents only.....	1,099	43	3.9
Other.....	689	134	19.4
Unknown.....	365	365	100.0
White.....	51,944	4,092	7.9
Living with—			
Two parents.....	40,995	2,917	7.1
One parent.....	9,919	897	9.0
Mother only.....	8,503	727	8.5
Father only.....	1,416	170	12.0
Grandparents only.....	469	26	5.5
Other.....	385	77	20.0
Unknown.....	175	175	100.0
Black.....	10,571	1,078	10.2
Living with—			
Two parents.....	4,404	401	9.1
One parent.....	5,196	465	8.9
Mother only.....	4,938	422	8.5
Father only.....	258	43	16.7
Grandparents only.....	570	17	3.0
Other.....	262	57	21.8
Unknown.....	138	138	100.0
Hispanic origin ¹	7,525	983	13.1
Living with—			
Two parents.....	4,826	574	11.9
One parent.....	2,337	213	9.1
Mother only.....	2,141	189	8.8
Father only.....	196	24	12.2
Grandparents only.....	100	21	21.0
Other.....	110	24	21.8
Unknown.....	152	152	100.0

¹Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.